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exhibition of the Water Color Club, under conditions that might be of some concern to the public, there has been awarded a prize of \$100 donated by Mr. Alexander M. Hudnut for the most meritorious water color in the exhibition, given this year for the first time. So far nothing out of the ordinary. The manner of awarding the above prize, however, was altogether unique and original—for Mr Hudnut stipulated that the jury should be composed of art critics of renown.

Mr. Hudnut deserves the gratitude of the art-loving community in thus furnishing a test whereby the public might ascertain beyond the shadow of a doubt the æsthetic acumen and artistic judgment of the art critics of three of the leading journals of the metropolis.

It was a most important event for the future of the Water Color Club and American art, and illustrates how Providence often selects humble instruments to effect far-reaching results. For instead of choosing the dignified Academy with its added prestige of the Society of American Artists, it selected the unpretentious Water Color Club to present to the world the acid test of awarding a prize to the most meritorious painting by a jury of professional art critics, or possibly was it the cosmic spirit of the cosmos that, through the agency of the Water Color Club and Mr. Hudnut invested the dignified members of the jury with cap and bells? The result would seem to justify this latter conclusion.

Instead of giving the prize to one of the very serious efforts, they awarded it to Mr. George Luks for one of the most trivial and amateurish works in the Exhibition, feeble in its crudity and of no great artistic merit, either in composition or form or color—slipshod in drawing and of little interest save a charming blue color. Possibly it might be serviceable as a colored comic for a Sunday supplement.

Perhaps the members of the jury may realize, some day, that it is one thing to write cleverly worded criticisms of art, with the assistance of encyclopædias and books of reference, and another affair to judge of the real æsthetic value of a picture without either theoretical or technical knowledge, or a concern for the highest interests of American art, *i. e.*, the production of something more than a clever stunt in brush-work.

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SMALL SCULPTURE EXHIBITS

Annual exhibits of small sculpture at the Gorham Gallery on Fifth Avenue are becoming a welcome supplement to those larger shows, made, alas, seldom enough by the National Sculpture Society! This winter's collection is perhaps the best yet, certainly the largest and most varied—not to speak of the setting of greenery and carpet of autumn leaves provided by Mr. Purdy the manager of the Gorham exhibitions. On the floor where sales are made the bronzes are too closely placed; they confuse the visitor and repel him by monotony of color. But the exhibition on the highest floor gives an opportunity to vary and separate and group the statues and statuettes and reliefs about a fountain or in an alcove, so that one may readily imagine how a given bit of sculpture might look by itself and in fitting surroundings. Some of the better known sculptors

contribute good work: Attilio Piccirilli shows a "Perseus" in a fine, defiant, exulting pose full of movement, the severed head of Medusa between his feet; Hinton Perry a monumental figure of "Memory" larger than life; Andrew O'Connor a vivid "Fisher Boy"; Cyrus Dallin some characterful Indians in statuette; Chester Beach various dainty fancies in marble; Solon Borglum various Cowboy and Bronco sensations; Herbert Adams a "Nymph of Fynmere." Among the newer names: Miss Jessie M. Lawson supplies a lovely figurine in bronze called "Daphne"—as charming as a bit from the Renaissance; Mario Korbel a "Meditation" well posed and expressive; Cecil Howard a very decorative standing Nubian Woman with bushy head of hair, slender calves, long feet, thick lips—full of Egyptian antique art; and Miss Renée Prahar a study of "War" with long talon-like toes and fingers, long eyes, ears and limbs, who skulks along with arms behind him like an Afreet of the Arabs. These are only some of the notable bits in an attractive collection of to-day's output in sculpture.

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LOSS TO IRISH ARCHÆOLOGY

By the death of George Coffey of Dublin archæology loses a writer who has done much by careful, cautious study to place the Irish past in its relation with that of the rest of Europe. He was director of antiquities in the Dublin Museum and carried on his work when stricken with paralysis long after another man might have given up in despair. His work appears for the most part in journals of archæology and his approvers are men of a similar line of study, like M. Solomon Reinach and the editors of the *Revue Celtique*. Among his most interesting studies is the tracing of certain decorative forms of the spiral and lozenge, found on very ancient stonework in Ireland, to similar designs in the Baltic region, in Russia and the Mediterranean, as if the people bringing them had migrated through the Black Sea, up the great Russian rivers, along the coasts of the Baltic into Britain and Ireland. His son Dermot Coffey has followed his father into later times with studies of Irish leaders of the Elizabethan period.

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ANECDOTES OF MANET

When Edouard Manet was a youth the family insisted that he should follow his father at the law, while he insisted on the contrary that he must paint. A compromise was made by his going to sea as a midshipman in the *Guadeloupe*, a merchantman out of Havre for Rio de Janeiro. The captain was acquainted with Manet's mania and like an able commander made use of the situation. His cargo contained many Dutch cheeses that lost their proper color on the voyage. What does he do but set little Manet to work with brushes and paint "restoring" these modern Dutch masters to their rightful note of color! Manet used to tell this yarn with great gusto when he became a painter.

Edouard Manet, innovator in the technic of painting, was also a Parisian and "man about town." As a member of the militia during the Franco-Prus-